

that were brought up to us that we expressed to them in the Public Works Committee. And so that the present version that you see of LB 835 is really a product of their compromise. There of course will be some things that I would like to still see changed and perhaps there will be some other amendments that will make that more palatable for me, but I think that my amendment will help to at least address a little bit of my concern regarding the telephone rates increase to customers and the ability of the customer as the affected person in an area to appeal that increase to the PSC. I think it's more fair than the flat 5 percent that you will find in Senator DeCamp's amendment to LB 835 and I would just like to go over that a little bit with you at this time. The first part of that amendment deals with the great variation that we find among the numbers of subscribers that we have in the companies in the state which ranges from hundreds to as many as and over 350,000 subscribers. So for that reason I felt that a flat 5 percent rate was not a good way to go and so based on that my amendment would address a breakdown among the different ranges and sizes of subscribers in affected areas. And so I have a section (a) which is a 10 percent of all affected subscribers if the telecommunications company has 5,000 or less access lines in service, and I understand that there will be an amendment to that which, you know, we can address that later, but the reason we went with 10 percent on that one was based on the fact that it is very much easier for a small community or in a locale to be able to come up with signatures on the petitions. (b) 5 percent of all affected subscribers if the telecommunications company has more than 5,000 but less than 50,000 access lines in service. Part (c) deals with 3 percent of all affected subscribers if the company has more than 50,000 but not more than 250,000 access lines in service and, finally, (d) two percent of all affected subscribers if the telecommunications company has more than 250,000 access lines in service. And then a second section which there is a change which you'll see in the amended version that I passed out to you still needs further amendments because that was missed. This would just deal with a little technical change that we would have to place in this part of the amendment beginning with "signed" in line, it should say "17" instead of "16" through "subscribers" in line "18" rather than "17". Then the third part of that deals with the concern that I have to protect the public from undue rate increases and it also limits the frequency of the increase. And what it does is just talk